

THE PROPOSED OPIUM BILL.

Hongkong, 19th October, 1891.

Sir—I am directed by my Committee to call attention to the following clause in the proposed Opium Bill which was under the consideration of the Legislative Council at its last meeting on the 15th instant. The clause reads as follows:—
“If any ship shall be used for the importation, landing, removal, carriage or conveyance of any Opium in Contravention of this Ordinance the Master Owners and Agents and the Consignees thereof shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars.”

To this clause my Committee entertain the strongest objection. It is absolutely unnecessary to raise revenue by the somewhat antiquated and wasteful method of “Farms,” my Committee consider it is incumbent upon the Government that they should not arbitrarily compel any section of the community to gratuitously assist in safeguarding the revenue so raised. Particularly when the article from which the revenue is derived is opium, the smuggler of which defies the efforts of the most scientific search.

To implicate the shipowners in the liability for what may occur on board their property appears to be most unreasonable. For it is utterly impossible that shipowners can be cognizant of the acts of their servants that happen on their vessels.

That the onus of proof should rest upon the crew and owners to rebut any charge of implication in smuggling, my committee venture to think, is opposed to sound practice and increases the objection they have to this clause.

Would it not perhaps improve the safeguarding of the Farmer's privileges, if the crew were permitted to be entitled to the entire proceeds of any opium seized on board, provided they were instrumental in obtaining the seizure. This seems to my committee a far better method than the drastic measure contemplated by the Ordinance.

That other colonies adopt more severe restriction than those proposed by our Government, hardly justifies following, even at a distance, a bad example. In our treaties with others we have steadily refused to admit what is proposed by this clause to apply to ourselves.

My Chamber ventures to hope that the Government will see fit to modify or expunge this most objectionable provision from the Ordinance.

I have, &c.

(Sd.) F. HENDERSON,

Secretary.

THE PRAYA RECLAMATION SCHEME.

The following is the official statement as to Praya Reclamation made in reply to Mr. Whitehead's query as to (1) The amount of monies received from Marine Lot holders and others on account of the Praya Reclamation Fund; (2) Mode of investment of the fund; (3) The payments thereon to 30th ultimo and on what specific accounts, particularly:—

1. Payments to Contractors:	
a. Payments for plant, materials, &c.; also a detailed report showing the progress and the actual condition of the work.	
(a) Money received from Marine Lot holders and others, to the 13th of October, 1891.	\$502,831.56
Government Contribution.	50,000.00
Total.	\$552,831.56
(2) Investment of fund, October 13th, 1891, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, current account.	\$1,954.60
Chartered Bank deposit.	50,000.00
Chartered Mercantile Bank deposit.	88,000.00
New Oriental Bank deposit.	68,000.00
Total.	\$257,954.60
(3) (a) Payments to Contractors, September 30th.	\$198,600.00
(b) Payments for plant and materials, September 30th.	70,166.83
(c) Staff Office & Supervision, &c., September 30th.	37,079.74
Total.	\$305,846.57

Contract No. 3.

RUBBLE FOUNDATIONS AND FILLING. Section No. 1, Eastern Portion.—Total length 939 lineal feet, commenced 9th July, 1891, time of completion 8th May, 1892. This work has been set out and 14,250 cubic yards of stone deposited in foundations. Progress satisfactory.

Contract No. 1.

RUBBLE FOUNDATIONS AND FILLING. Section No. 2, Eastern Portion.—Total length 738 lineal feet, commenced 17th January, 1892, time of completion 16th January, 1893. This work has been set out and 11,622 cubic yards of stone deposited in foundations. Progress satisfactory.

Contract No. 4.

RUBBLE FOUNDATIONS AND FILLING. Section No. 3, Eastern Portion.—Total length 1,000 lineal feet, commenced 22nd December, 1890, time of completion 1st December, 1891. This work has been set out and 12,814 cubic yards of stone deposited in foundations leaving to complete Contract 4,225 cubic yards of stone and 58,176 cubic yards of earth filling.

Contract No. 8.

RUBBLE FOUNDATIONS AND FILLING. Section No. 7, Eastern Portion.—Total length 1,157 lineal feet, commenced 10th April, 1890, time of completion 9th January, 1891. This work has been set out and 11,103 cubic yards of stone deposited in foundations leaving to complete Contract 5,800 cubic yards of stone and 47,700 cubic yards of earth filling.

Contract No. 6.

FOOTINGS, PLYMOUTH AND FILLING. Section No. 5, Eastern Portion.—Commenced 16th March, 1891, time of completion 30th September, 1891, 32,222 cubic feet of ashlar, 981 cubic yards of concrete and 1,071 cubic yards of rubble laid, leaving 1,200 cubic feet of ashlar, 150 cubic yards of concrete and 6,500 cubic yards of earth filling.

Contract No. 9.

FOOTINGS, PLYMOUTH AND FILLING. Section No. 6, Eastern Portion.—Commenced 11th May, 1891, time of completion 10th November, 1891, 520 cubic yards of earth excavated, 6,287 cubic feet of ashlar laid and 157 cubic yards of concrete laid, to complete 1,200 cubic yards of excavation, 10,400 cubic feet of ashlar and 550 cubic yards of concrete.

Contract No. 11.

FOOTINGS, PLYMOUTH AND FILLING. Section No. 7, Eastern Portion.—Commenced 5th September, 1891, time of completion 4th February, 1892, Ashlar being dressed at Quarries.

Contract No. 10.

FOOTINGS, PLYMOUTH AND FILLING. Section No. 8, Eastern Portion.—Commenced 4th September, 1891, time of completion 14th December, 1891, Ashlar being dressed at Quarries.

Hongkong, 19th October, 1891.

THE RECENT RUMBLINGS AT AMOY.

“X” BADLY EXTINGUISHED.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Daily Press*, deserves credit for its success in discovering the cloudburst flares and the most ungrammatical asides in the East. Its latest treasure-trove in this regard is some portland and senile specimen of astuteness who signs himself “X,” and who declares that he never saw nor heard of political placards in Amoy. Of course it is impossible to convince a fool of his folly or “X” of his X-traordinary imbecility, but it may be a Christian kindness to the *Press* to show what kind of tommy-rot is foisted by it upon the public through its cultivating illiterate grannies of the “X” type.

The authorities of Amoy have issued many proclamations of which translations are on file in every Consulate of that city, and may be read by any respectable citizen who chooses to apply for the same. Here are three which have come into our possession and which were translated by the British Consul of that place:—

I.

“24th day of 8th Moon, (September 27th, 1891.)
“Huang, Halfang, makes proclamation to forbid certain acts as follows:—

“Whereas the provincial examinations have just been held, and large numbers of scholars are returning to their native places, and whereas Amoy is a seaport open to foreign trade where persons from all parts of the world live together, it is very easy for bad characters to appear and then disappear again. Therefore precautions must be taken with the greatest strictness and thoroughness. Moreover the winter season is fast approaching. Information has besides been received of the arrival lately of wicked men and distributors of seditious placards from other places who are now in hiding here. For these reasons it is the more necessary to make an immediate inquiry in order to prevent the occurrence of trouble.

“I myself, in Company with Chen the Commandant of the Central corps of maritime forces, and the Deputy Magistrate of Shih Hsin and the Captains of the various defensive stations, must make a personal examination, and instruct the five sergeants of police, the head constables, the regular constables, the balliffs of the eighteen wards, the water balliffs and the water police, to go to and fro, each in his own district, both night and day in order to search out, and after a strict and secret examination to arrest (suspect characters). It is also my duty to issue a proclamation.

“Therefore he it known to all keepers of monasteries, temples, Buddhist and Taoist temples both large and small, on the hills, brooklets, gullies, inkeepers, opium shopkeepers and others in Amoy, that from the time of issuing this proclamation they are not allowed to give lodging to persons of whose proceedings there is any doubt, or to bad characters from other places, or to wandering prostitutes, or hands of street players. All inns, large and small, must keep a patrolbook, registers to be used in turn, in which the name surname and proper place of abode of every guest to be clearly stated, and the number coming and going. The register for each day must on that day after the sounding of the first watch be sent to my yards for me to strike out any objectionable names; and this duty is no longer to be regarded as an empty formality. Any one venturing to disregard this regulation or to treat it as of little importance will assuredly be at once arrested and severely punished. My orders being given must be obeyed on pain of incurring the terrors of the law. Tremble and obey.”

II.

“26th day of 8th moon (September 28th, 1891.)
“Ping Admiral, W. Tao-tai, make a proclamation ordering bad characters to be driven away. The Admiral and Tao-tai have discovered that certain persons have lately been harboring prostitutes from other parts of the country and bands of strolling players, and in their company a number of tramps and idlers who have tempted good for nothing young men to drink and gamble as to the first watch be sent to my yards for me to strike out any objectionable names; and this duty is no longer to be regarded as an empty formality. Any one venturing to disregard this regulation or to treat it as of little importance will assuredly be at once arrested and severely punished. My orders being given must be obeyed on pain of incurring the terrors of the law. Tremble and obey.”

III.

“It is our duty at once to give strict orders to have all such persons driven away or else arrested and punished so as to maintain order in the district. Besides instructing the commander of the forts and the halfang to arrest and drive such persons away we must issue a proclamation. Be it therefore known to the balliffs of every ward and to all inkeepers etc. that after the issuing of this proclamation all prostitutes from other districts or strolling players or large bands of tramps, or beggars from other places, must be at once driven away out of the neighborhood and not allowed to establish themselves here. As to the keepers of gambling houses, temples, and brooklets they must be promptly arrested and brought to punishment, should any balliffs or inkeepers while appearing to comply, secretly disobey these instructions they must be immediately seized and beaten with the bamboo or exposed in the Canoe. Should any householders, owners of property, or inkeepers for the night, allow any such persons on their premises, or let any house as a brothel or for gambling to live in, they houses will assuredly be closed and confiscated to the officials, and every such household, owner of property or inkeeper shall be arrested and examined. The Admiral and the Tao-tai having given these orders must be obeyed. No pardon will be granted, do not try to find out what will happen if you break the law. Do not trust to mercy, which will not be shown. Do not attempt what is impossible. This is a special proclamation which must not be disobeyed.”

IV.

“26th day of 8th Moon (September 28th, 1891.)
“Ping Admiral of all Maritime forces in Fokien. W. Tao-tai, make a proclamation to forbid certain acts as follows:—
“Whereas Amoy is a point of resort both by land and sea, where people from all parts of the world congregate together, without distinction of good and bad, and whereas information has lately been received that disbanded soldiers, members of the Kolah Hui and other societies, and wandering tramps with no visible means of subsistence and traitors and rebels are making their abode in Amoy. Ruffians of this kind are an undesirable class of persons to have in the place and their gathering within our boundaries must lead to trouble and to harm being done to respectable persons. Now the majority of these vagabonds come from other parts, and have no settled place of abode, and they are lodged in opium shops, brothels, inns and temples. Orders must therefore be given to the balliffs and to the keepers of opium shops and inns from time to time to make a careful enquiry and to report to the officials if they have such persons

punished and to maintain order in the place. Besides instructing the Amoy Halfang together with the Commander of the Central division to deputize an extra force of soldiers and constables to search for and secretly arrest such characters, we must issue a proclamation.

“He it therefore known to the various balliffs of the wards, and to the opium shop keepers, inn keepers, priests of temples, and local brothel keepers and the poorer classes in general that from the time of issuing this proclamation they are on no account to be allowed to give lodgings to any disbanded soldiers or bad characters coming from other parts, or to let such persons secretly pass the night on their premises. As to ordinary guests coming and going to inns, they must carefully find out their names and where they are going and only allow them to stay on their premises if somebody will go security for them. If any guests behave in a suspicious manner or there are any secret placards about them so that doubt is raised as to their proceedings, the Halfang must be at once and secretly informed; then they will be arrested and brought before him for examination. What the real facts have been discovered the total will give a reward proportionate to the seriousness of the case. Should any innkeeper, keepers of temples, and brothels, or poor persons for the sake of private gain allow doubtful characters to stay in hiding on their premises, or if any of the balliffs with outward appearance of compliance should secretly disobey their instructions, or not display zeal in their investigations, soldiers regular and irregular and yamen constables will be employed to enquire into what they are doing, will assuredly arrest all householders harboring such characters and dispossess them of their property, and will punish them with the utmost severity. No mercy will be shown them, no peace or repentance left for them. Every one must obey with trembling this special proclamation.”

“Of the Kolah-hwei placards, to which these proclamations refer, over half-a-dozen have been secured by the Consuls and the missionaries. In the main, they are political in character, though a few are anti-Christian in tone. Translations of several are as follows:—

I.

“The Seven Stars have fallen from on high in all their brilliancy; who will place the old signboard or a new one in the Heavens?”

II.

“Older Brothers.—Foreign devils are eating us up. Let them be driven into the sea on the blue (?) day of the red (?) moon.”

III.

“The creed of Christ resembles a dog's flatulence. Who likes it is worse than a beast and should be put to death.”

IV.

“Away with the Tartar dynasty. Death to the thieves who are its slaves.”

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents to this column.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE “HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.”

Sir,—A fellow disguising himself under a Latin signature but whom we recognize as a fellow-employed of the Chinese Customs has a letter in your issue of 13th inst. which for pure mendacity deserves a medal. It is simply a mass of malice tempered by falsehood. He makes many statements. Of the most of them I know nothing. If they are on a par with those of which I know the truth, they deserve no credence. Permit me to answer him seriatim on the points with which I am conversant.

He states that the Chinese authorities of Amoy are not alarmed by the symptoms of rebellion. This is false and he knows it so to be. Every evening they have had a detachment of soldiers in the custom-house, some of them right under his windows. They have issued proclamations and a copy of one of them is in the Custom house near his office.

He states that “the island of Kulangsu was not divided into three military districts and that the five-arms of Amoy were not brought out and cleaned up.” Both of these assertions are deliberate untruths on his part. In regard to the first, the Consul body appointed a committee to inquire into it. It consisted of Consul-General Hamel of Holland, Mr. Cass, Consul of Belgium, Dr. Fales, U.S. Vice-Consul, and Mr. Lange of the German consulate. They made a report, which was approved by all the consuls, in which they divided the island into three districts, with headquarters at the Amoy Club, the U.S. Consulate and Mr. Cass' residence. The people of Amoy received notice of the fact and I believe in every instance thanked the Committee for their action. Of course this fellow did not thank anybody. As to the fire-arms, they were brought out here in the custom-house, were inspected, cleaned and put in good order. What is more, they have been inspected three times a week ever since by us Europeans who are employed in the Customs. On two occasions the inspection was witnessed by your prevaricating correspondent.

3. As to his suggestion that a member of the committee tried to dispose of a rifle as a matter of sending around a call to form a rifle association, it is as malicious as it is false. The circular was sent around by Captain — (I do not use his name as I have not seen him) as a matter of courtesy to Mr. Cass, the chairman of the committee, who was out of town. He is a man of the highest character and such an accusation against him is simply monstrous.

I do not understand why a fellow-employed of the Customs should indulge in such malevolent lying. I suppose however he is born that way and can not help himself.

A TIDEWAITER

Amoy, October 16th, 1891.
[We never for one moment doubted the genuine and irrefutable authenticity of our esteemed correspondent's contributions, but in accordance with our general line of policy we let “Veritas simplex oratio est,” spread himself, being well aware that our correspondent was in a position to substantiate all that he had written.—Ed.]

NEWS BY THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The P.-M. S. S. Co.'s steamer *China*, Capt. W. B. Seabury, arrived from San Francisco via Yokohama, this morning. The following telegrams are taken from our exchanges:—

LONDON, September 16th.

The Russian Government has requested the European Danube Commission to permit Russian naval cadets to take passage on board vessels belonging to the commission, in order that these young officers may be instructed in the pilotage of the Danube and become familiar with the navigation of that river. This strange request, following close upon the Dardanelles incident, has caused considerable astonishment in official circles. The Danube is the chief national highway for the commerce of a large portion of Europe. The request just made would seem to indicate that Russia would like her naval cadets to be instructed in the navigation of the Danube above and below Iron Gate. It would also seem that this is a hint that she may not now consider binding, for her volunteer ships at least, the clause of the treaty of 1878 stipulating that

“ships-of-war” should not navigate the Danube below Iron Gate.

Dr. MacLagan has been enthroned as Archbishop of York, with great pomp, in the presence of a large gathering of the clergy. The Duke of Cambridge, with several military detachments and bands, escorted the clerical procession.

BERLIN, September 16th.

Further details from Zanzibar in regard to the disaster which has overtaken the German expedition under command of Captain Zaleski show that while Captain Zaleski's expedition was at Wahebe the chief, ruling over that district promised friendship to the Germans, but he subsequently robbed thirty members of the expedition at Mwapu. As a result of this breach of faith the German forces stormed the fortress of the stronghold of the chief and succeeded in capturing it. While Captain Zaleski, later on, was marching farther inland into the Wahebe country his command was surprised by natives and almost annihilated. Lieutenant Tetenborn is expected to arrive shortly at the coast with the remains of Captain Zaleski's defeated corps.

Of seventy-seven German chambers of commerce forty-five voted in favor of a national and sixteen in favor of an international exhibition in Berlin in 1893.

OTTAWA, September 16th.

The Privileges and Elections Committee today adopted the majority report exonerating Cochrane, M. P., from the charge of complicity in selling Government offices. The report will be moved as an amendment in the House.

BRISTOL, September 16th.

A man named Allen, the leading witness for the crown in the charges of immoral conduct brought against S. W. de Coblentz, one of the members of Parliament for Bristol, has been arrested in this city on a charge of being engaged in the sale of obscene pictures.

THE HAGUE, September 16th.

The Queen Regent, in opening the new Chambers, said bids embracing a system of electoral reform, to reorganize the army and navy, to extend educational facilities and to improve the condition of the working classes would be introduced.

WASHINGTON, September 16th.

In an interview today Secretary Tracy said: “It is asked, why have our new ships not been assigned to the Asiatic station?” The answer is, in the first place, that our large ships of 3,000 tons or over, are not as available for the protection of American missions and other interests in China as smaller vessels of lighter draught. For the purpose of ascending the rivers upon which our missions are located small gunboats, drawing from ten to twelve feet of water, are the best available vessels. We have two of these of about 1,000 tons each designed for this service, well on their way to completion.

“However, American missions and American citizens in China are to rely upon gunboats for their protection rather than upon the Chinese Government, our fleet in those waters must be very largely increased.”

VIENNA, September 16th.

Alarming accounts of brigandage, growing out of famine, come from South Russia. Murders and outrages are of daily occurrence. Bands of starving peasants haunt the roads and forests in the Caucasus, lying in wait for travelers and resorting to pillage and murder. In many villages of the State complete anarchy prevails.

At Elisabetopol fifty brigands recently surprised two Chinese at midnight and murdered the twenty-two occupants. One man escaped. The place was attacked in broad daylight. The passengers were poor women and girls. The brigands murdered the former and outraged the latter.

SOUTHAMPTON, September 16th.

The steamship *Monte* arrived today from Mote Video, having on board \$800,000 in silver shipped by ex-President Balmaceda of Chile to Europe in order to pay for war materials. This is the silver conveyed to Montevideo by the *Bank of England* pending the settlement of the legal questions involved.

PARIS, September 16th.

The scene caused by the reported occupation of Mitylene by England has made bankers less pliable, and negotiations concerning the price of a new Russian loan still continue.

ST. PETERSBURG, September 17th.

Horrible disclosures were made at the recent trial in Kief, arising from the death of a prisoner in jail. The post-mortem examination showed that the man had been horribly beaten, twelve ribs being broken. At the trial the wardens confessed that by order of Inspector Morozoff they had beaten the deceased with sticks and stones, wrapped in rags and declared that such castigation was common. The Inspector was sentenced to exile in Siberia, and the six wardens were sentenced to hard labor. Morozoff has eluded the police and fled to America.

LONDON, September 17th.

What gives special interest to the various Catholic Socialist pilgrimages to Rome, which are about to take place, is that they will be escorted and presented to the Pope by three of the most eminent personages in the Catholic Social party—M. Langemann, Archbishop of Rheims; Count Albert Demun, Deputy, and M. Harmel, a working-man and organizer of the pilgrimages. It is expected that the Pope will make a speech in which he will clearly outline the policy of the Vatican with regard to Catholic Socialists.

The regular half-yearly meeting of the directors of the Bank of England was held today. A statement was submitted showing the net profits for the half-years ended August 31st to be £775,238. A dividend of 5 guineas was declared, less a surplus of £2,000,000. The chairman expressed the opinion that the guarantors of the Bankings would not be involved in any loss.

The *Standard's* Berlin correspondent says the effort to reconcile Emperor William to Prince Bismarck has completely failed.

The Cologne *Gazette* says it is announced that Count Wedell will replace Count von Munster as German Ambassador at Paris.

The Hamburg-American line steamer *Furst Bismarck*, from New York September 10th, for Hamburg, arrived at Southampton this morning, breaking the best previous record between New York and Southampton. Her time is six days, twelve hours and fifty-eight minutes.

Sir Arthur Sullivan has recovered.

VIENNA, September 17th.

The phylloxera is ravaging the vines in South Styria, in spite of the fact that American vines have been grafted upon them under the belief that this would have a curative effect.

A dispatch from Warsaw confirms the reports the massing of Russian troops in the western districts in connection with the coming military maneuvers. A stage just issued directs the erection of barracks for the frontier guards at a distance of a quarter of a mile from the western frontier.

PARIS, September 17th.

Rouvier, Minister of Finance, was married today to Marguerite Pommeroy, widow of Du Guey. M. Ribot, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and M. Fallieres, Minister of Justice, were the best men. Deputy Mayor Isabey, of the sixteenth arrondissement of Paris, performed the ceremony.

TRIESTE, September 17th.

It is reported that fifty workmen have been killed through the collapse of a tunnel on the new railway.

ROME, September 17th.

Twelve of the workmen buried by the falling in of a railway tunnel near Messina yesterday were found dead.

Intimations.

CARPETS

QUEEN'S ROAD

SPLENDID VALUE.

HONGKONG TRADING CO. LTD.

DESIGNS.

DUDELL STREET

SPLENDID VALUE.

CARPETS

QUEEN'S ROAD

MADRID, September 17th.

There was a renewal yesterday of the floods in the province of Toledo and more damage was done.

The number of people who perished in the floods in the province of Toledo, is now placed at 2,400, and the number of lives lost in other localities at 500.

MONTREAL, September 17th.

Premier Mercier has thrown down the gauntlet to Lieutenant-Governor Angers, and defies him to appoint a royal Commissioner to inquire into the Bole de Chaleurs boodle charges. Mercier's personal organ, *La Justice*, says civil war would result before the Lieutenant-Governor would be permitted to take any such high-handed proceedings. Mercier sent a letter to the Lieutenant-Governor saying he would not allow an advocate to over-ride him, and he was responsible to the people alone for his conduct.

MUELHUSEN, September 17th.

The Eleventh army corps encountered the Fourth army corps today, and a battle of several hours' duration was fought in the presence of the Emperor, who galloped from point to point throughout the battle. Sixty thousand men were engaged.

BERLIN, September 17th.

The Emperor has ordered a sufficient number of officers to be sent immediately to East Africa to take the place of those lost in the disaster to the Zaleski expedition. A large expedition is being organized.

BRISTOL, September 17th.

William Allen, a leading witness for the Crown against Edward de Coblentz who was arrested yesterday charged with selling obscene pictures, was discharged today, no case being proved against him.

PARIS, September 16th.

The whole press of this city condemns Emperor William's speech at Erfurt, in which he is reported to have alluded to Napoleon I as “that Corsican parvenu.”

La Paris says: This violent attack on a man of genius and greatness like Napoleon will have no diplomatic results. It simply reveals the character of the monarch who seizes every occasion to revile France and hasten revenge.

La Tour says: The speech proves that recent events have rudely dispelled the Emperor's dreams. He wanted Europe to be blindly submissive to Prussian hegemony, and finds himself confronted by nations which have developed themselves, and which laugh at his threats.

La France says: This time it is not we who can be accused of talking of revenge. It is the German Emperor, who reminds us that armies are always of the day. His remarks are a gratuitous outrage on the patriotism of a great people.

ROME, September 16th.

The city is talking today about the sensational duel that was fought in the morning between General Gaudofili, Governor-General of the Italian colonies in Africa, and Sig. Franchetti, a Deputy and member of the Inquiry Committee on African Affairs. The General considered that Sig. Franchetti made certain reflections on his honor in connection with the management of African matters and he immediately sent a friend with a challenge, so that the necessary arrangements might be made without delay. In order that the combatants might suffer no interruption, as would be likely to occur if they fought in open, it was agreed that the encounter should take place in a private room in the house of one of the seconds.

The weapons chosen were swords, and then the inspection of the house followed, which led to the dining-room being selected as the place of meeting, because it was the best lighted. The furniture was accordingly moved, but so as to offer no obstruction, and then the seconds and doctors took their places in the corners of the room. The word was given and the two gentlemen set to and fought with desperate earnestness. General Gaudofili was soon slightly wounded, but his injury was not sufficient to put an end to the fight.

It was accordingly continued, and finally Franchetti made a sudden rush at his adversary, and was only stopped from inflicting a possibly fatal wound by the fact that in attempting to parry a thrust the General's sword struck him on the forehead and made a scalp wound. The blood flowed freely and soon streamed over his face, so that the services of the physicians had to be called in. They examined the cut and declared that the wound was of such a nature as to prevent any further fighting. The seconds declared that honor was satisfied, and the two gentlemen shook hands.

BERLIN, September 18th.

The *Deutsche Review* publishes an article signed “A Late Ambassador,” which contends the Dardanelles question is not so remote from German interests as is indicated by Bismarckian tradition. “The Russian strategists,” the writer says, “admit the road to Constantinople lies through Vienna, and therefore Germany is bound to maintain Austrian integrity. The Russians aim at becoming the ruler of Europe and Asia. Bismarck's hope that he will bleed to death is too foolish to depend upon.”

According to the *Volks Zeitung* a conference will shortly be held at the castle of Solta, in Rattibor, between the Prince-Bishop Kopp of Breslau and the Austrian Minister of Commerce, Count Barchene, together with the Archduchess Stephanie, widow of

